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chair is Dr. Wicksell and we doubt whether the Swedish government could have made a better choice than that in giving the professorship to this brilliant young scholar whose recent researches on the theory of probability rank among the foremost of the present time.

A. F.

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*Is War Diminishing?* By F. A. Woods and A. Baltzley. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1915.

The present deluge of war books, relating directly to the war or social questions growing out of the war makes it rather difficult to criticize or review incisively any one specific work. It will be interesting to see how many of the present war books will survive when once the minds of men settle down to normal conditions. Evidently the vast majority of the present books on the war will soon be forgotten and only a few will remain. To the present reviewer one of the most interesting war books is a little brochure written by a Chinese scholar. This deep thinker of the Orient points out the futile attempt of many writers to place the blame for the war on certain political parties. The Occidental mind is of a too prospective turn, always looking to the future, and neglects often to compare present conditions with the past. As the Chinese scholar points out, it is of greater importance to compare our own conduct with that of our forefathers than to speculate on what the coming generations will think of us. The white race certainly has no reason to feel superior or proud in comparison with the yellow race when it has reared such a monster as the German Empire. To the Chinese scholar the whole question of the war is that of sex, this term being taken in its most general sense. He divides the peoples into "he" and "she" nations. Germany is an essentially feminine nation according to the opinion of this wise Oriental, who evidently has looked deeper below the surface of the different nations of Europe than any other writer of modern times. England and France, on the other hand, he regards as nations with typically masculine traits.

After reading the very stimulating book by the Chinese scholar, the reviewer began to see in a new light some of the interesting ideas in the book by Dr. Woods. Dr. Woods has not tried to write a brief for any one of the various participants in the present war. He has followed a purely retrospective course and limited his research to the concrete and narrow question: "Is War Diminishing?" This severe limitation of his theme does not allow any room for the vague generalities indulged in by various pacifists and peace advocates. His very pertinent remarks on the utterances of such apparently great authorities as Ex-President Taft, Dr. Butler of Columbia University, Professor Thorndyke and Dr. Mitchell will warm the heart of every true scientist. Unfortunately vague generalities and mere verbalism have too often been indulged in by many of our leading citizens. In the past attractive presentation and cheap oratorical phrases have been preferred by the public to the less ornamental language of the scientist. The white man, and especially the German, has in the past

decade indulged in a lot of bombastic generalities, which after all have turned out to be mere bubbles of speech. While our "leading" men of the past have talked volumes about the horrors of war and held up before their audiences the chimera of eternal peace, they have never given deep thought to the experience of the past.

Dr. Woods suggests the measurement of the warlike tendencies of the different nations by the duration of the wars in which they have participated. In this respect he finds that Great Britain must be classed as an essentially warlike nation, because of its almost uninterrupted warfare. However, it must be remembered that the British Empire is founded upon maritime power and most of its wars have been fought chiefly on the sea. Naval actions do not require the large number of armed men involved in military operations on land; hence the drain on England will in all probability be found to have been much smaller than on the other nations. It is, however, almost impossible for any writer to measure the number of men who have been engaged in the past warfare of the different nations. For this reason the actual duration of the different wars must at the present serve only as a rough index of the secular variation of warfare.

In his introduction Dr. Woods touches upon many interesting questions, among other things the much debated subject of eugenics. But he does not adhere to the extravagant views of the ordinary "social uplifter" and disgruntled feminist who apparently sees a monster in every male. He is even of the opinion that war may have a beneficial influence upon a nation if it results in a selection of the best fitted survivors of an originally strong and healthy lot. His remarks that man has not evolved essentially by a raising of the average, but that the rise in intelligence of a very small percentage of all mankind has been the feature in the growth of civilization, are well worth notice. One of the most baneful influences of our modern intellectual life is its mediocrity. The average intellect undoubtedly has been advanced tremendously in most countries, but the age of intellectual geniuses of the type of Leonardo de Vinci, Descartes, Newton and Leibnitz seems to be a thing of the past. A few years ago poor benighted Russia seemed the only place in the white man's world from which occasional flashes of genius broke forth. Dr. Woods seemingly is of the opinion that man has evolved in spite of the fact that he has fought presumably half of the time. If warfare therefore is so deleterious it may be asked, How did man get where he is? Of course, it may be a debatable question if man really has evolved. The reviewer is of the opinion that our present age has retrogressed in intellectual attainments in comparison with Greek antiquity and the Italian renaissance. The white man of the future will, in his opinion, have to relinquish the leadership to the yellow man, who in many respects possesses greater staying power and national stability than the white nations of Europe and America. Eventually this may prove of great benefit to mankind, and it seems to him sheer nonsense to speak of a yellow peril. The Chinese mind is in most respects much more dignified than our European mind, and the philosophy of the East is probably sounder than the often highly speculative systems of the Western world.

At any rate, any possible conquest by the Chinese or Japanese would be preferable to the "Weltmacht" of the German.

While the introductory notes by Dr. Woods are very suggestive and original, the present reviewer cannot bestow the same praise on the part of the work accredited to Mr. Baltzley. The statistical summaries and diagrams prepared from various treatises and text books on history are comparatively crude in their makeup. Nowhere does the reader find even the slightest attempt at a mathematical and quantitative analysis of the data. The chronological tables as prepared by Mr. Baltzley do not represent original research beyond that of a simple tabulation. Probably the author has something better in store for us, but if this be the case, he ought to have indicated it in the text. Mr. Baltzley's comments on Poland are of interest; but the downfall of the Polish power must be sought for in a quite different direction from that of pure military extinction. The writer believes it to be a fact that all of the former great nations of Europe, such as Spain, Portugal, Poland and Turkey began to decline as soon as the Jewish element exceeded a certain percentage of the total population; and history seems to be repeating itself in the case of the rapidly disintegrating Austrian Empire, in which the Jews, by their financial strength and by their proportional strength in population, have exerted a tremendous influence. This is a very interesting phenomenon which Dr. Woods and his collaborator might study with profit.

ARNE FISHER.

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#### REPLY TO DR. DAY'S CRITICISM OF MY ARTICLE ON CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS.

It would be unwise to occupy too much of the valuable space of "The Publications" with a lengthy discussion, but Dr. Day's well-stated criticisms are so broad in scope that they seem to call for a brief reply.

He first dissents from my observation as to the frequency of the misuse of the coefficient by reputable statisticians. I hope that he is right and that the cases of that type coming under my observation are fewer than my memory indicates. The instances in question are not at hand at present, but vivid recollections come to mind in which economists who habitually present statistical studies to the public have used coefficients to prove correlation between the cyclical fluctuations of two variables without getting rid of the trend or the lag. However, the question as to the standing of writers misusing the coefficient does not seem to me to be one of importance. My criticisms were intended entirely for the benefit of those who did not use the coefficient correctly. Experts in correlation would, of course, not need any direction concerning its application or interpretation.

Statistical literature has, however, for example, been too commonly favored with contributions in which a coefficient has been used to bolster up an assumption of correlation between short-time fluctuations when the only reason for the high coefficient was the fact that both variables had